THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to the figures of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, total exports of cotton yarn amounted to 90 million kgs in 1990-91 and 43 million kgs during the period April-July, 1991.

(b) Separate statistics of yarn exported in the hank yarn form are not maintained. However, export of hank yarn upto 60s counts is not allowed.

(c) It would not be correct to attribute rise in cotton yarn prices to exports as the cotton yarn exports constitutes only about 6 per cent of the total cotton yarn production. Furthermore, cotton yarn exports during 1990-91 did not affect the supply of yarn for domestic industry as production of yarn also increased correspondingly.

(d) With a view to further increase the availability of hank yarn and also to check the rising trend in hank yarn prices noticed during the recent weeks, Government has directed the National Textile Corporation and the State sector spnning mills to augment production of hank yarn of counts 40s and below by suitably adjusting their production pattern.

Bihar Government's proposal for Jayprakash Vikas Patra

1190. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar had sent a proposal to the Central Government for approval of "Jayprakash Vikas Patra" in March, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in the clearance of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The proposal has been considered and not agreed to.

Cess on Textiles

1191. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total proceeds of the cess collected during 1989-90, 1990-91 levied on Textiles under the provision of Textiles Committee Act, 1963;

(b) what is the purpose for which the cess is collected and how it is being utilised; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to use the cess for constitution of a welfare fund for the benefit of handloom weaver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The total proceeds of Cess collected during 1989-90 and 1990-91 were Rs. 891.44 lakhs and Rs. 1300.38 lakhs respectively.

(b) Textiles Committee has been established under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963 for ensuring the quality of Textiles. The cess amount is utilised for the purpose of meeting the pay and allowances of the employees of the Textiles Committee and other administrative expenses of the Committee. It is also utilised for carrying out the purposes of Textiles Committee Act.

(c) No, Sir.

Restriction on the import of Real Madras Handkerchiefs into Nigeria

1192. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the restrictions imposed and duties levied by Nigerian Government on the import of Real Madras Handkerchiefs woven on handlooms in South India into their country; and

(b) whether any negotiations have been carried out with the Nigerian